



CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chair Pete Woll called the March 22, 2021, Business meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. via ZOOM.

Board members present Pete Woll, Chair; John Ellis; Vice Chair; Lech Naumovich, Secretary/Treasurer; Donna Pridmore Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; being a quorum of the Board.

Also, in attendance were Hailey Graf, Ginger Kauffman, Samantha Tappenbeck, FCD Staff; Fiona Handler, Big Sky Watershed Corps Member; Kenny Breidinger, FWP; Marcus & Jeanne Carlson; Mark Cahill; Ken Gautreau; Sean Hinchey; Mark Hash; Randy Snyder; Melissa Brickl; Roger Noble; Bruce Boody; Deb Starling, Family Forestry Expo; Sean Johnson, NRCS.

CONSENT AGENDA

A consent agenda addresses items from the normal agenda that are assumed to get unanimous consent and handles them as one item at the beginning of the meeting. Once the meeting has been opened, the Chair will ask if any items listed as consent items need discussion and a normal vote. If any board member requests discussion on an item, it is stricken from the consent list and addressed like normal. All other items are assumed to receive consent and are passed automatically.

Consent Agenda Item 1: Signature Authorization

Authorization for Hailey Graf to sign on behalf of Supervisors Lech Naumovich and Donna Pridmore attending the meeting virtually

Consent Agenda Item 2: Phone Polls

- 3/1/2021 - To approve the agreement to fund the FCD share of the Foys Bend Stream Gage in the amount of \$1,810 to be taken out of the Watersheds Other budget.
Approved by Pete Woll, John Ellis, Lech Naumovich, Verdell Jackson, Donna Pridmore

Consent Agenda Item 3: Tabled 310's

- **DeVore**, FL-2020-062, Whitefish River, trail/boardwalk/steps/pavers/landing/dock: tabled until spring
- **Griffin**, FL-2020-060C, Garnier Creek, complaint: tabled pending receipt of 310-application
- **Hodge Creek Reserve**, FL-2021-003, Hodge Creek, culvert/pipe/bank stabilization/flood protection: tabled pending additional information
- **Legacy Mtn Holdings**, FL-2020-064C, unnamed, complaint: tabled pending technical review
- **Legacy Mtn Holdings**, FL-2021-002C, unnamed, complaint: tabled pending technical review

Consent Agenda Item 4: Minutes

- Approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021, Business meeting as presented.
- Approve the minutes of the March 10, 2021, Special meeting as presented.

Consent Agenda Item 5: Financial

The following bills were reviewed (Check Detail 3/3/2021 – 3/17/2021)

1. Flathead Beacon \$528.00
2. MontanaSky Networks \$10.00
3. NW MT Fair \$355.00
4. River Design Group \$1,965.00 (Trumbull Creek Gr. #RRG-20-1750)
5. River Design Group \$2,959.13 (Heil Technical Review)
6. Blue Cross Blue Shield \$1,985.86
7. CenturyLink \$324.78

Consent Agenda Item 5: Correspondence

- Public Notice of Invasive Species found in Aquarium Moss Balls
- Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Ground Water Investigation Program

John Ellis motioned “to approve the consent agenda.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcus & Jeanne Carlson explained that they had submitted 310-permit application for bank stabilization. An onsite inspection was scheduled for Thursday, April 1, 9:30 A.M. at the site. Jeanne noted that they are experiencing bank erosion due to wakes created by boats on Flathead River.

310's

95 Karrow, FL-2019-017, Whitefish River, permit extension request: John Ellis explained the permit extension will expire 5/28/2021, and according to the AR's a second extension is not allowed. Roger Noble agreed to submit another 310-application and will provide an update on what has been done. Lech Naumovich noted that the parcel is listed for sale, and permits are non-transferable.

Lech Naumovich motioned “to deny the request for a permit extension.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Birk, FL-2021-011, Flathead River, bank stabilization: Donna Pridmore and Kenny Breidinger explained that part of the project is to repair rip rap already in place and add new rip rap where there are erosion problems and undercutting of vegetation. Donna reviewed modifications in the Team Member Report.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve the application with modifications per the Team Member Report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Brunskill, FL-2021-016, Flathead River, platform/dock: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Thursday, April 1, 10:30 A.M. at the site.

Butts, FL2019056C, unnamed complaint: Lech Naumovich explained that Mr. Butts submitted a Work Completion form, and the site should now be viewable. An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 11:00 A.M. at the site. Lech will contact Mr. Butts.

Cahill, FL-2021-012, Flathead River, pile debris: Pete Woll noted that an amended application was submitted that includes steps.

Pete Woll motioned “the application satisfies complaint #FL-2020-075C.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pete Woll motioned “to approve the application with modifications submitted 3/15/2021.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Flathead Co/NW Energy, FL-2021-019, Haskill Creek, utilities: Lech Naumovich explained that the application is to bore a gas line under the stream, staying approximately 80-feet back from the stream with a depth of 6-feet under the stream, which meets the Adopted Rules.

Lech Naumovich motioned “to approve the application as submitted.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Gabbert, FL-2021-018C, Bales Creek, complaint: Donna Pridmore explained that the complaint is that a wellhead in the stream collapsed and is now flowing into the stream. A complaint letter was sent to the landowner; however, a response has not yet been received from the landowner.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to table until a response is received.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Gautreau, FL-2021-015, Wild Bill Creek, bridge/culvert/road/core drill: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 9:45 A.M. at the site.

Hash Family Swan Prop., FL-2021-017, bank stabilization/remove fallen tree: An onsite was scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, 2021, 9:30 A.M. at the site.

Heil, FL-2020-042C, Blaine Creek, complaint: Pete Woll explained that the landowners had 90-days to submit a 310-application, and that the deadline is today. Melissa Brickl and Roger Noble, Water & Environmental Technologies, stated they were retained one-month ago, were not aware that the application was due today and requested an extension.

John Ellis motioned “to table the complaint until April 26th.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hinchey, FL-2021-009, Flathead River, steps: John Ellis and Kenny Breidinger explained that the bank is partially vertical, and it is hard to get down to the river. The landowner is proposing to grade the slope, place 3 rock steps, and replant with native grass and plants. The steps are not to go below the mean highwater mark. Mr. Hinchey asked if 4 or 5 steps could be placed. John and Kenny agreed however, rocks cannot be placed below the highwater mark.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the application with modifications per the Team Member Report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hughes, FL-2020-068C, Mill Creek trib., complaint: Pete Woll stated no response has been received from Mr. Marvin.

Pete Woll motioned “to forward the complaint to the County Attorney.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kusler, FL-2021-004, Flathead River, dock/boat lift: Pete Woll explained that the district issued a permit (#FL2008024) to Peter Rice in 2008 for a ramp and dock on this property. The current landowner (Kusler) is requesting to put a second dock on the property and was asked to submit a copy of the covenants (dating 2015) which he said describe the existing dock belongs to the upland neighbors that are not on the river. A response was received just Friday; Pete and Kenny Breidinger requested time to review the response.

Pete Woll motioned “to table until the information submitted is reviewed.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lipinski-Kashi, FL-2021-020, Ashley Creek, fencing: Donna Pridmore and Samantha Tappenbeck explained that the livestock fencing will not impact the stream as it will be 75-feet away from the stream at the closest point.

Donna Pridmore motioned “this is not a project under our jurisdiction because of the distance from the stream.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reed, FL-2021-013, Flathead River, pile debris: Pete Woll explained the application was for work done by Mr. Cahill on Reed’s property.

Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the application as submitted.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sneed, FL-2021-001C, Bear Creek trib., complaint: Randy Snyder explained that Sneed no longer owns the property, but that he could forward the current owner information to the district.

Pete Woll motioned “to table until new owner information is submitted, and we can consult with legal.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

White, FL-2021-014, Flathead River, dock/slip with roof/boat ramp: Donna Pridmore explained that the landowner wants to build an 85-foot long, F-shaped dock that does not meet the Adopted Rules (AR’s). Donna contacted the engineering company and explained why it does not meet the AR’s and asked that they amend the application.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to table pending submittal of new information.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Zingo Holdings, FL-2021-008, Whitefish River, residential structure/fill: Lech Naumovich explained that during the onsite it was noted that the fill will be greater than 100-feet away from the stream.

Lech Naumovich motioned “this is not a project under our jurisdiction.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Updates to 310-Permit Paperwork: The following changes to 310-paperwork were discussed at the March 10th special meeting:

- Add FWP/DEQ 318 Review Authorization form to Team Member Report
- Add heading for permit modifications and heading for general notes on the comment page of the Team Member Report

- Add note on permit packet instruction page to take before and after photos
- Update application cover page and permit process page to require a site map be included in the application
- Update reminder postcard regarding Work Completion forms to specify that no subsequent permits will be issued until completion form is received
- Remove the Work Authorization form from the application

John Ellis motioned “to approve the items that we wanted to change as discussed at the special meeting held March 10th.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Update complaint procedure to send standard complaint letter immediately following receipt of complaint.

John Ellis motioned “to update the complaint procedure to send the standard complaint letter immediately following receipt of the complaint, after the area supervisor is notified.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Use of education letter for potential violations when a complaint is not formally filed. Hailey Graf provided an example letter to the Board.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the use of the education letter, which was drafted by Hailey Graf and has been used in the past, for potential violations when a complaint is not formally filed, or the complainant is anonymous.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Board noted that staff must first contact the area supervisor.

Budget & Strategic Planning Meeting: Lech Naumovich explained that the meeting will be to discuss goals, missions, and general spending strategies, then tie those into the FY 2021/2022 budget. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 1:00 P.M. at the FCD office.

End of Month Budget Report (January 2021): Treasurer, Lech Naumovich reviewed the January End of Month Budget Report for January 2021.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve the End of Month Budget Report for January 2021.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Service to FCD Vehicle: Hailey Graf explained that repairs were recently done on the FCD vehicle. Shop technicians noticed internal oil leaks, and estimated repairs at \$1804.00. Pete Woll will do some research.

John Ellis motioned “to table the service of the FCD vehicle until the next meeting.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

File Migration to SharePoint: Hailey Graf proposed migrating the office files to SharePoint, a cloud-based server that would allow staff and supervisors to easily access files remotely and increase security. Hailey provided additional details and explained that the service has no additional cost, but Byte Savvy Computing Service can help with the file migration and setting up Data Loss Protection policies for under \$200. Supervisors agreed to first try the process in a practice mode.

John Ellis motioned “to set up online SharePoint in the practice mode to see if we like it or not.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Family Forestry Expo (FFE) Funding Request: As the Board had requested additional information regarding the FFE funding request, Deb Starting, FFE Chair, provided updated budget information and specifics on where funds will be used, and explained that a \$3500 grant was received from another partner. She noted that FFE will be held this year via online learning and self-guided tours.

John Ellis motioned “to grant the FFE \$10,000.00.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COVID Reimbursement: Hailey Graf explained COVID reimbursement funding is again available to districts that were denied in the first round. Supervisors agreed that it is not necessary for Flathead CD to re-submit for reimbursement.

College Scholarship Awards: Samantha Tappenbeck provided the Board with award recommendations for 7 college scholarships totaling \$15,000.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to accept the scholarship applicants and the recommendations Samantha Tappenbeck has presented.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Grant FY20/21 budget revision request: Samantha Tappenbeck provided the Board with a current budget and a revised budget for Conservation Grant #CG-2020-03. She explained that the Board previously approved the Conservation Grant budget to cover 75% of costs for the purchase of native seedlings for a reforestation, windbreak, and wildlife habitat project. The budget was developed based on inventory and costs at the Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery; however, the landowner has sourced seedlings from another nursery and is requesting that the Board revise the contract budget.

John Ellis motioned “to deny the request and encourage the applicant to reapply for fiscal year 2021/2022 Conservation Grant funding.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Hailey Graf, Ginger Kauffman, Samantha Tappenbeck, and Fiona Handler submitted the following report:

Office and Administration

310 – To date Ginger has processed eight new 310-Permit Applications and one Complaint. She also processed minutes, 310-permits, and letters from the February business meeting. Hailey attended onsite inspections and coordinated with landowners to provide the virtual meeting attendance information.

A special meeting was held on March 10 for the board and staff to discuss FCD’s 310 paperwork and administrative process. Hailey worked with Pete and John to draft an agenda and prep for the meeting. Pete, John, Lech, Donna, Verdell, Ginger, Hailey, and Fiona attended the meeting and collaborated on a brainstorming session to make improvements to our processes. Hailey and Ginger compiled notes from the meeting to be included in the board meeting packet and for review during the March Business Meeting.

Following the board's selection of an engineer to complete the Legacy Mountain Holdings technical review, Hailey contacted each respondent to notify them of the board's decision. Pete approved and signed the standard contract for the selected engineer then Hailey and Ginger coordinated with the engineer to complete contract paperwork, insurance documentation, and a current W-9. Hailey and Ginger also coordinated with the engineer to gather background information on past permits and complaint files.

Bookkeeping – Lech Naumovich & Ginger Kauffman reconciled the January banks statements on 2/16/2021. Ginger compiled the January Financial documents. Ginger processed payroll on March 10th & 17th. The next payroll is March 31st, and federal & state tax reports and payments and quarterly reports will be processed. Ginger received and distributed the 2021 medical insurance Member Guides and information to staff.

District Office –Weekly staff meetings were held via Zoom, generally each Monday at 2 PM.

Hailey submitted comments on behalf of the FCD to Flathead Planning and Zoning regarding the Geffery Subdivision preliminary plat request. This proposed subdivision is adjacent to Blain Creek and the main concerns would be loss of designated Prime Farmland and a potential for increase nonpoint source pollution.

Hailey and Ginger worked with Century Link to get the second phone line repaired at the jack to Ginger's desk.

Hailey and Ginger took the FCD vehicle in for servicing at Kalispell Ford to have the belt tensioner replaced. During that appointment Kalispell Ford identified an oil leak that will need further work.

Following guidance from Supervisors, Hailey coordinated interviews with four prospective new supervisors. The interviews took place on March 16 and 18 and served as an opportunity for the current Supervisors to meet and get to know the Supervisor applicants. Hailey communicated with all four prospective Supervisors to answer questions about Supervisor responsibilities, workloads, current projects, and the 310 Law.

Hailey contacted Pete to discuss a request for funding for the Foy's Bend stream gage. Following his guidance, Hailey conducted a phone poll for approval of the agreement with US Geological Survey in the amount of \$1,810 to be taken from the *Watersheds Other* budget.

Ginger and Hailey worked with John to compile information on Ron's achievements while working with the FCD for an article in the paper following his retirement.

Hailey drafted a Watershed Stewardship Award nomination for landowners on the Cow Creek project. John reviewed the nomination and Hailey submitted it the Montana Watershed Coordination Council for review on March 4.

Hailey reviewed a public scoping request from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACoE) regarding wetland impacts mitigation and forwarded it to the board for review. Following questions from Supervisors, Hailey contacted Nathan Green with USACoE to learn about partnership opportunities on future wetland mitigation projects. Hailey learned that the Montana Aquatic Resource Service (MARS) is the only wetland mitigation firm in Montana that can act as

a bank for mitigation credits with USACoE and they may be a good partner for funding future restoration projects.

Hailey, Samantha, Ginger, and Fiona met last month to discuss challenges with file sharing. Hailey researched available options to improve file sharing between staff while maintaining security and low costs. She also consulted with Byte Savvy Computing Services for advice and troubleshooting. Based on this information she prepared a proposal regarding file migration the SharePoint site for review by the Supervisors.

Legislative – Following a request from MACD for outreach to legislators on HB374 and with guidance from FCD board members, Hailey hand wrote post cards to local legislators requesting their support of HB374. Thankfully, HB374 passed through committee with an 18-0 vote. Assuming it passes the House, this will be the first time in six years that Conservation Districts are funded to the full amount allowed by legislature.

Hailey worked with Jason Mohr on bill drafting for the Resolution on the Study of Erosion on Flathead River to be introduced as a study bill. There is day-79 deadline for this to be introduced as a study bill, but Jason hopes to have it introduced by the end of the month.

Hailey and Lech completed final edits to the FCD Info booklet project for legislators. Fifty copies of the booklet were printed by Great Northern Printing to send to legislators and to be used in future education programs. The informational booklet will be sent to legislators along with a note pad, hat, and coffee mug, all with the FCD logo. Hailey hopes to get these legislator outreach packages sent out by the end of the month.

Trainings – Hailey is taking an online Business Management training through FVCC. Ginger completed a self-paced, Intermediate QuickBooks training through FVCC, and the March 16th Records Retention training through MACDEO.

Fiona attended the 2021 Serve Symposium, hosted by Montana AmeriCorps. Over 300 people serving across the state attended this three-day event that focused on professional development and highlighted crucial tools AmeriCorps members can utilize to make their terms of service as successful as possible.

Hailey and Ginger attended a QuickBooks training sponsored by the CD Employee Organization. The training was a total of six hours long, with 2 hours each on March 3, 4, and 5. This training focused on organization of the chart of accounts, legal requirements for recordkeeping, audits, and account reconciliation.

On-the-Ground Projects

Cow Creek Restoration Project – WGM Group has been contracted to conduct an alternatives analysis and preliminary project design for expanding the project to an additional property.

Trumbull Creek – Hailey wrote the annual report and worked with Ginger to submit the report, match tracker, billing statement, and invoices to DRNC.

Krause Creek – An updated scope of work and schedule was approved by DNRC and the EPA. Funding for this project is expected to be released in Spring, 2021 and contracting with DRNC will begin at that point.

Montana Outdoor Legacy Foundation Revegetation Project – Following approval from the board during the February Business meeting, Fiona and Samantha placed an order with the DNRC seedling nursery for native seedlings and with Forestry Suppliers for seedling protector tubes and weed matting. The cost of this order exceeded the amount approved by the board by \$15.15 due to shipping expenses that were not factored into the initial budget.

Hailey communicated with landowners and the Eagle Bend Subdivision HOA to address questions regarding the project and potential to reduce erosion.

Fiona is planning to organize a volunteer planting day once the DNRC confirms the date the seedlings will be delivered. This event will be primarily for the homeowners in the Eagle Bend Subdivision but will be open to the public.

Demonstration Garden –Hailey researched options for planting a lawn alternatives area and expanding the walking path. She also worked with CHS in Kalispell to develop a cover crop seed mix and planting schedule. She contacted Heart of Sky Fencing for a quote to have a fence installed around the garden and contacted several shed companies for options to have a shed installed for the Rolling Rivers Trailer and garden tools.

Programs

Conservation Grant Program – The application period for FY21/22 funding requests closes on April 30th. We have received four applications so far. Samantha worked with applicants and supervisors to arrange site visits. Samantha and Supervisors completed site visits on March 16th and March 18th.

Samantha notified FY19/20 contractor via certified letter that their contract term has lapsed following no communication, update on project status, or request for reimbursement. All other FY19/20 contracts have been finalized and paid.

Samantha checked in with FY20/21 contractors. Samantha coordinated with contractor (CG2020-02) and FWP representative regarding plan for project implementation. Samantha also completed a site visit to discuss the plan on the ground and answer questions about the final report and reimbursement process.

Samantha provided assistance to FY20/21 contractor interested in budget revision.

Seedling Program – FCD accepted orders through March 15th for delivery this spring. Eleven orders were received. Hailey and Samantha provided information to landowners about the ordering process, access to the current inventory, and reviewed and approved conservation plans. Samantha updated the orders database and coordinated with the Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery on the schedule for delivery.

Education Grant Program – This program has a rolling deadline but closes during the month of June in order to close out the fiscal year.

College Scholarship Program – The application period for 2021 College Scholarships closed on March 15th. We received seven applications. Samantha compiled application materials and prepared summary information and funding recommendations for the Board.

Watershed Support Program – Samantha provided assistance to a landowner on Ashley Creek that is interested in an efficiency repair/upgrade to the irrigation system, riparian livestock fencing, and an off-site livestock water tank. Samantha coordinated with the landowner, land manager, and landowner’s contractor to develop a project plan, and provided information and guidance on the permit application process.

Fiona and Samantha applied to the Montana Watershed Coordination Council Watershed Fund for funding.

Pollinator Initiative – 44 people have indicated interest in participating in this program. 20 pollinator plots (0.7 acres) were seeded in spring and fall 2020. Samantha presented about the Pollinator Initiative alongside Lake County CD and Gallatin CD during a breakout session at the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting.

Rain Garden Initiative – Fiona, Samantha, and Hailey met with City of Kalispell partners Casey Lewis and Emilie Henry for a planning meeting on March 2nd. Fiona and Emilie worked to update the landowner agreements and the guidelines for the incentive program.

Education and Outreach

Workshops and Events

- **Land Stewardship Series:** Samantha continued to coordinate with project partners on this virtual webinar series. Samantha facilitated the March 3 workshop on pasture Management, presented by Pat McGlynn. Fiona facilitated the March 10 workshop on Forest Pests & Diseases, presented by Rick Moore. Hailey facilitated the March 17 webinar on Wildfire Preparedness, presented by Ali Ulwelling. Upcoming webinars include septic system management on March 24 and noxious weed ID & control on March 31. Overall, the webinars have been very well received and we will likely follow it with in-person farm tours or site visits once feasible. All webinars and associated resources are available on the FCD YouTube channel and on our website here: <https://flatheadcd.org/workshops-and-classes/recordings-resources/>
- **Family Forestry Expo:** Hailey, Samantha, and Fiona attended two Forestry Expo planning meetings and worked with a subcommittee to explore options for hosting education events during COVID. Based on the information gathered, the Forestry Expo steering committee has decided to update the existing interpretive signs and add additional educational signs around the trail to create a self-guided tour option. We will also work with a local videographer to create a series of short videos that can be used by teachers or viewed on the Expo website and Facebook page.

Advertisements – FCD ran advertisements about the Land Stewardship Seminar in the Flathead Beacon (Feb 10, Feb 24) and on Facebook. We also advertised the College Scholarships Program in Glacier Values (Feb/March issue) which reaches 45,000 people in the Flathead Valley.

Website and Social Media – Over the past 30 days, the website was viewed 2,035 times, with 79% new (vs. returning) visitors. The most viewed pages and posts were the FCD homepage, a blog post about the life history of larch trees, and a blog post about healing in bareroot plants. Over the same period, the FCD Facebook page gained 18 new followers, posts reached 13,439 people, and there were 868 post engagements. The most engaging posts were about joining the Flathead CD Board and an informational post about the importance of browse on dormant vegetation for overwintering wildlife.

eNewsletter – The Local Dirt was distributed on 2/1/2021 and included information about upcoming events, available programs, a partner profile, blog post, and 310 permitting information. It was opened 309 times by 138 people and clicked 54 times. The most-clicked links were to the Land Stewardship Seminar registration, a blog post about the Montana snow report, and the Conservation Grant Program. The current mailing list includes 307 people.

Partnerships

- Hailey attended the MACD Leadership meetings on February 19 and the weekly MACD Legislative Ad Hoc Committee meetings each Tuesday.
- Hailey attended the Covid-19 restrictions meeting hosted by NRCS and worked with Tom Watson and Sean Johnson to research options for using the shared space in the office.
- Hailey attended the BSWC site supervisor conference call on March 8. This conference call covered partner updates, program requirements, paperwork deadlines, and member engagement strategies.
- Hailey attended the Conservation District Administrative Grants webinar on March 11th.
- Samantha participated in the monthly CD Roundtable discussion hosted by MACD and the Employee Organization
- Hailey, Samantha, and Fiona attended two Forestry Expo planning meetings and worked with a subcommittee to explore options for hosting education events during COVID
- Samantha and Fiona met with Lake County CD regarding Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership and coordinated outreach efforts between MACD Septic Cost-share and FCD Watershed Support Program

Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS): Sean Johnson submitted the following report:

➤ **Programs**

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – Sign-up deadline of November 17th
 - Joint Chief's (JC) Proposal
 - Going to repackage the plan to include the comments but also adjust the boundary to include the Whitefish municipal watershed area
 - JC submittal to come sometime around June
 - Submitted 3 TIPs for 2022 funding that went through the second review last week with very positive remarks by reviewers
 - Wedge Canyon – North Fork
 - Little Bitterroot Lake
 - Irrigation Improvements for Lower Valley
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - Working on our CSP applications for 2021

➤ **Review Items**

- Joint Chief's meeting – 2/22

➤ **Upcoming Items**

- Firesafe Flathead meeting – 3/25
- Joint Chief's planning meeting – 3/25
- Final TIP review

- Week of April 19th
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Kalispell working on hiring a new Soil Conservationist
 - Start date would probably be mid-summer
 - Pathways Intern starting in Kalispell on 5/23
 - All FPAC offices are currently frozen from moving forwards in COVID opening protocols but we can move backwards if needed. New guidelines are being developed for office to start moving forwards in re-opening phases.
 - Snow Survey – Feb 1st Snow Survey Report
 - Flathead basin up to 94% of normal, up from 84% from last month
 - Sub Basins range from 75% (Little Bitterroot) up to 107% (Middle Fork Flathead)

Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD): No report.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): Verdell Jackson reported 4 subdivisions passed.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): John Ellis reported two accessory apartments were approved.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 6:00 P.M.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): Lech Naumovich reported the spring meeting is scheduled for March 31st via ZOOM. Topics will include Septic Leachate projects and Water Quality monitoring.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

Retirement Celebration: John Ellis explained that letters to the Editor about Ronald Buentemeier retiring from the district were mailed to newspapers on Friday.

Demonstration Garden: Hailey Graf explained that this year we will be working with the Weed Dept. to treat weeds in the garden, and with CHS on a cover crop mix. A path along the demonstration area for alternative lawn solutions, an interpretive sign, a shed for the Rolling Rivers Trailer and fencing around the demonstration garden were discussed with the Board. The Board opted to wait on a shed and fencing until a new lease is signed (current lease ends 6/13/2021). Hailey encouraged the Board to contact her if they have any additional ideas for the Demonstration Garden.

Legislative Outreach: Hailey Graf explained legislative informational packets have been developed and are now ready to send to legislators.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve mailing items to legislators.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Grant (CG) ranking criteria review: Samantha Tappenbeck asked the Board to review CG Program Ranking Criteria sheets in preparation for next month’s meeting discussion on the way projects are funded, prior to reviewing applications in May. CG application deadline for FY 2021/2022 is April 30th.

Downtown Whitefish Highway Study: Hailey Graf offered to forward the public scoping meetings link to interested Supervisors.

West Reserve Drive Corridor Study: Hailey Graf explained that a public scoping meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2-4 P.M, and offered to virtually attend the meeting then report back to the Board.

Computer Connectivity Issues: Hailey Graf explained that the office is experiencing computer connectivity issues. Possible solutions include replacement of modem and router and switching from CenturyLink to Spectrum. Internet speed and cost were discussed.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to have Hailey contact CenturyLink and Spectrum regarding internet speed to determine the best alternative for the district.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisors: Donna Pridmore motioned “to offer a Supervisor position to Scott Rumsey, and to offer Associate Supervisor positions to Gordon Ash, Kody Coxen, and Emily Harkness.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Hailey will draft letters for Pete Woll to sign.

Consent Agenda: Donna Pridmore motioned “to adopt the use of the consent agenda to streamline meetings.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

District Meetings: John Ellis motioned “to return to two meetings (2nd & 4th Monday) a month beginning in April.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meetings will continue to be held via ZOOM.

Staff will update the website and add information to the newsletter The Board clarified that applications will also be accepted later in the month and be included on the April business meeting.

Upcoming Meetings via ZOOM:

- **Budget & Strategic Planning Meeting**, Thursday, April 8th, 1:00 P.M.
- **310-Meeting**, Monday, April 12th, 7:00 P.M.
- **Business Meeting**, Monday, April 26, 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment: John Ellis motioned “to adjourn.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Hailey Graf, Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>4/12/2021</u>	<u>Pete Woll</u>	<u>Chair</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)